छोटे किसानों को ऋण

2507. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इन्स्टीच्यूट आफ डेवलपमेंट स्टडीज के विशेषज्ञों ने सिफारिश की है कि छोटे किसानों को पर्याप्त ऋण/साख सुविधाएं मिलनी चाहिए; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस सुझाव पर विचार करेगी

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोम पाल): (क) और (ख) छोटे और सीमांत किसानों के लिये पर्याप्त ऋण की व्यवस्था के लिये विकास अध्ययन संस्थान से कोई सिफारिश नहीं मिली है।

लेकिन, ऋणों की पर्याप्त मात्रा सुनिश्चित करने के लिये राष्ट्रीय कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास बैंक (नाबार्ड) ने जिला केन्द्रीय सहकारी बैंकों द्वारा अपने संचालन क्षेत्र में छोटे और सीमांत किसानों के लिये धन की व्यवस्था करने में कार्यनिष्पादन का एक न्यूनतम स्तर हासिल करना (कुल वितरित ऋण के 10 से 151 के बीच) निर्धारित किया है।

Marketing Reforms in the Farm Sector

2508. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of the observations made in the Economic Survey for 1998-99 Government have taken fresh initiatives to formulate, finalise and implement marketing reforms in the farm sector;

(b) if so, furnish details regarding the present status of marketing systems of agro-products in various States, State-wise and nature of reforms proposed to be implemented; and

(c) how soon the reforms in marketing of farm sector are likely to be ready for implementation for Maharashtra in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Government have formulated various schemes, namely, Development of Rural Market, Market Extension, Improvement of Services in wholesale Markets, Setting up of Apni Mandi and creation of additional Storage and Cold Storage capacity in order to minimise the gap between the producer price and the consumer price due to a large number of intermediaries operating in unregulated and unsupervised vegetable and fruit market. Action has also been initiated to review, and abolish wherever feasible, all control on the movement of agricultural products and on the processing of agricultural products, in order to ensure a higher return to the grower.

Besides, a draft Model State Act for Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation was circulated to all State Governments/Union Territories for enacting appropriate legislations. Most of the State Governments/ Union Territories have enacted their legislations on the basis of this Model State Act for agricultural produce markets.

The Marketing system of agro-products varie from State to State. All States except manipur, Kerala, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Dadra and Nagar Haveli have enacted the legislation.

(c) Agricultural marketing being a State subject, the time frame for reforms in marketing of farm sector is to be decided and implemented by the respective State Governmetns under the provisions of their State Agricultural Produce marketing Regulation Acts. In the State of Maharashtra, the action is to be taken under the provisions of the Maharashtra Agricultural Produce marketing (Regulation) Act, 1963 (Act No. XX of 1964).

Agricultural Extension Services

2509. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to revamp agricultural extension services in the country;

(b) if so, what are details thereof; and

(c) in what way it will be advantageous to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Extension programmes are being restructured with the following objectives: